

HIKING WITH A DONKEY

TWO-DAY UNACCOMPANIED HIKE WITH A DONKEY



Family's donkey
hike following
the course of
the Loire river

WELCOME IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

The Loire, mythical river, will take you away to discover its treasures during two days accompanied by a donkey.

This two-day donkey trek will offer you all the pleasures of a family vacation where you share simple but authentic moments. The donkey will be the link that will unite you, far from screens and stress, a nature moment to disconnect from your daily life and reconnect to simple but essential things, to get together, to live an adventure that will be one of your best memory.



**2 days of hike
1 night**



Beginner level



**Bed and breakfast
accomodation**

THE PROGRAM

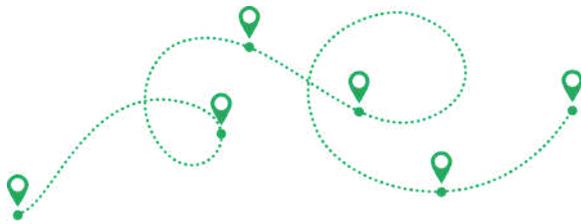
Day 1

From Melay to Artaix:

Meet at 9 am, in the town of Melay, at the Donkey Farm for two hours of lessons "how to care about my donkey and how to drive it easily?" (if you come from far enough, we advise you to arrive the day before, the training "will then take place around 5pm).

The first day, you will follow the towpath of the canal lateral to the Loire which was followed at other times by other donkeys less lucky than ours because they pulled the barges loaded with merchandise while our donkeys will only carry your luggage!

You follow it the first day for about 7 km, to Artaix, a small village on the left side of the Loire, perched on a hill where you can guess the location of an old oppidum. It is in a place further from the village that you will stop where the land and the water are intimately linked.



Day 2

From Artaix to Melay :

On the second day, you will find a small path following the meanders of the Loire where you can observe the storks, herons, egrets ... you can then fully appreciate the sweets and splendors of this old lady, but also discover the diversity of flora and fauna. The hike is located in an area classified as Natura 2000. Natura 2000 groups together natural sites, all over Europe, identified for the rarity or the fragility of wild, animal or plant species and their habitats.

WALKING LEVEL

Beginner

JOUR 1 : 15 ou 11 km soit environ 4 h 30 de marche / D+ : 127 m et D- : 82 m

JOUR 2 : 12 km soit environ 3 h30 de marche / D+ : 58 m et D- : 103 m

Attention, ce programme est donné à titre indicatif, il peut être modifié en fonction des conditions climatiques, du niveau du groupe et/ou de la disponibilité des hébergements. Les temps de marche sont donné à titre indicatif, sans les temps de pause et dépend de votre niveau de marche. NB : D+ : dénivelé montée, D- : dénivelé descente.

After training with a professional trekking donkey, where you will learn to take care of this animal so gentle and patient (brushing, cleaning the feet, putting the matériel) and where all the explanations to conduct your Donkey in the most simply way, will be given to you, you can leave serene with your new walking companion.

The donkey will carry your luggage and the youngest children when they are tired. A real ally for parents, because it is always there to motivate children who will surprise parents with their walking ability.

These two days will allow you to discover the Loire Valley: an easy hike because with very little elevation. You will then have all the time to appreciate the many birds that live by the river : the many storks, the various species of herons that feast on fish and at the right times, maybe you can observe the African bee-eaters, the geese and swans in full migration.

And in the evening, the family, tired but relaxed, will enjoy a nice stopover with the locals, welcomed as friends, at a table where you will be offered meals made with good local Burgundy products with a hint of exoticism, the owner being from Reunion island!

A ride with a donkey, is the best "slow tourism" : a regular rhythm of 3 km per hour, time to enjoy the landscape, a nap in the shade of an oak tree, a meeting with a talkative farmer, time stands still and everything will become so peaceful.



ACCOMODATION

We offer bed and breakfast accommodation
On site, you will eat at the host table.
Day 1 picnics will be prepared by LB Rando and Day 2 picnics by bed and breakfast accommodation.

LUGGAGE PREPARATION

Don't charge too much !

The donkey carries 30 to 35 kilos maximum weight of luggage and children included: take only useful things!

Two bags in which you will have to distribute your luggage in a balanced way (a scale to weigh the luggage will be provided for the duration of the hike) will be given to you the day before or the morning of the hike.

What you need :

- Your clothes (do not forget a practical and light rain suit and caps)
- Good hiking shoes and possibly a second pair to rest the feet at night BUT LIGHT (type sandal)
- Shower gel and shampoo not included in the B&B
- A gourd of at least 1.5 liters per person which will be filled each morning before your departure.
- A small emergency pharmacy (antiseptic, bandages, aspirin, mosquito and anti ticks, sun cream)
- A bicycle helmet for children riding on the donkey (MANDATORY, not provided)
- One or more small backpacks that allow you to unload the donkey when the children are tired or carry the extra luggage
- that the donkey can not carry.
- Garbage bags for putting your clothes: garbage bags are very light, waterproof, solid and space-saving: it's even better
- than a backpack or a gym bag. Suitcases to avoid absolutely.

What you don't need :

- you do not need towels, sheets or sleeping bags
- You do not need picnic material, everything will be provided with picnic of the first day
- games for children (there is everything you need for accommodation)
- additional food (including for the donkey), meals, breakfasts and picnic are very plentiful, do not worry

LEVEL ZOOM

The French Federation of hiking has designed a practical tool to estimate the difficulty of the hikes, a simple one that we have used to give you an idea of the level required for this hike.

The rating of the FFRandonnée is a true reflection of the difficulty of a hike expressed according to 3 criteria: EFFORT, TECHNICALITY and RISK

General level of the hike:
ENOUGH EASY

EFFORT: LEVEL 2/5
EASY ENOUGH

Hiking requires a certain physical commitment which remains measured. This level corresponds to moderate hikes.

TECHNICITY: Level 2/5
EASY ENOUGH

Route or portion of route with obstacles less than or equal to the height of the ankle. The foot is applied by looking for "flat" or "comfortable" areas of the support, which are fairly easily identifiable.

RISK: Level 2/5
RATHER WEAK

Fairly low level of accident risk. Exposure to danger remains limited. Injuries are possible but minor (examples: fairly marked relief path with possible slope, dislocation and possible sprains in the event of a fall, etc.).



PRICES

160 € per adult in double room on full board
75 € per child from 12 years old on full board
60 € per child under 12 years old on full board
25 € per child under 4 years old on full board
Child sleeping in a baby cot and under 4 years old: free

*These rates are for 2 adults minimum in the same room.
For families of more than 5 people, for people wanting separate rooms, for single people or single parents with one or more children, a supplement will be indicated during the estimate.*

In all cases, these prices are given as an indication, according to your requests, a quote will be established before booking.

These prices include :

- One Donkey, hiking material and food for the donkey
- The complete organization of your hike
- Accommodation during the hike in full board in guest comfort B&B, wigwam from picnic day 1 to picnic day 2
- The start briefing: advices for driving a donkey, itinerary
- The IGN map traces of each hiking day, as well as a detailed road map.
- The GPX tracks of each day of hiking downloadable before your arrival
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These prices don't include :

- Drinks and personal expenses
- Accommodation the day before and the last day of hiking

*From € 60 per adult in double room with full board
From € 45 per child from 12 years old on full board
From € 30 per child under 12 years old with full board
From € 20 per child under 4 years old with full board
Child sleeping in a cot and under 4 years old: free*

- Transport to the starting point of the hike and return
- The repatriation of the donkey and hikers to the starting point in case of abandonment on your part
- Insurance, including cancellation and interruption insurance

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT

The luggage is transported by donkeys. We recommend a donkey for 3 to 4 people with a MAXIMUM of 35 kg, weight of luggage AND young children that can ride the donkey

OPTIONS

- An additional night with half board the day before the hike
- An additional night with half board on the last day of hiking
- An additional donkey
- transfer Marcigny / Melay or Pouilly sous Charlieu / Melay with a taxi
- Cancellation and interruption insurance
-



BOOKING

Please complete the online form by following this link :

[BOOKING FORM](#)

We will get back to you as soon as possible by email with a tailor-made quote for your stay in Southern Burgundy.

You have a question ?

Write to us directly on the contact page of our website

CONTACT

Loire Bourgogne Randonnées
La ferme de Putinat
71 340 MELAY

Tel : +33 (0)3 85 84 16 70
contact@lb-rando.com
www.lb-rando.com

Brionnais has some wonderful surprises in store for you!



2020 price list

ACCESS

You are going to the village of Melay in Saône et Loire: department 71

Saône et Loire is served by the A6, A39 and A40 motorways and by the national road Center Europe Atlantic.

By road, Melay is 9 hours south of London, 7 hours south of Brussels and Bruges, 3 hours west of Geneva, 4 hours south of Paris, 2 hours south west of Dijon, 1 hour 30 minutes south west of Chalon sur saône , 1h30 north-west of Lyon, 1h west of Mâcon, and 20 mins north of Roanne. On Google Map, enter the destination "bougres d'ânes".

By train, enter as arrival destination: MARCIGNY

If you come from the North of France or Europe, you can stop at Le Creusot - Montchanin TGV station where you will take a bus which will drop you off an hour later at the Marcigny stop where a taxi that we can book take you to your destination. If you come from the south of France or Europe, you must reach Roanne station where we will pick you up where a bus will drop you off at the Pouilly sous Charlieu stop where a taxi that we can book take you to your destination.

SNCF (train) :

00 33 (0)8 92 35 35 35

Bus from train station to Marcigny or Pouilly sous Charlieu :

+33 (0)4 77 68 30 00

